

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

INCORPORATION OF *BATRACHOSPERMUM GELATINOSUM* (RHODOPHYTA) INTO CASES OF *OCHROTRICHIA WOJCICKYI* (TRICHOPTERA: HYDROPTILIDAE)¹**J. B. Keiper², D. A. Casamatta³, B. A. Foote²**

Microcaddisfly larvae (Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae) often incorporate filaments of algae into their cases (Wiggins 1996). Sheath et al. (1995) studied the incorporation of freshwater red algae (Rhodophyta) into the cases of a variety of caddisfly species. They reported that hydroptilid larvae of *Dibusa*, *Hydroptila*, and *Ochrotrichia* had Rhodophyta incorporated into their cases, but no *Ochrotrichia* were identified to species. To supplement their study, we report the incorporation of the rhodophytan *Batrachospermum gelatinosum* (L.) De Candolle into the cases of *Ochrotrichia wojcickyi* Blicke. Although *B. gelatinosum* has been associated with the cases of midge larvae (Diptera: Chironomidae) (Sheath et al. 1996), this is the first report of *B. gelatinosum* used as caddisfly case material.

Larvae were collected from cobble substrata in an unnamed low order stream located in Salt Fork State Park (40°06'03 N, 81°28'41 W), Guernsey Co., Ohio, on 26 May 1997. They were transported to the laboratory, placed in aerated rearing chambers (Keiper and Foote 1996) with field-collected riffle rocks, and the adults reared for species determination. Larvae were never observed to consume *B. gelatinosum* in the laboratory. Living algae covered approximately 5-15% of cases examined.

Sand grains often constitute most of the case material used by larvae of *Ochrotrichia* (Wiggins 1996). The incorporation of *B. gelatinosum* into the cases of the specimens collected suggests that *O. wojcickyi* is not specific in its case material requirements. The fate of living Rhodophyta incorporated into caddisfly cases remains unknown.

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